Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104429 ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 OES-07 /034 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NVELIOTES:CEK APPROVED BY NEA - MR VELIOTES L/OES- R J BETTAUER IO/HR - MR HEWITT (SUBST) IO/UNP - G HELMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 104429

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, PFOR

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW - RED SHIELD AMENDMENT

REFERENCE: (A) GENEVA 3437; (B) GENEVA 3241

- 1. WE HAVE SEEN REFTELS WHICH FORECAST OVERWHELMING DEFEAT FOR ISRAELI EFFORT IN GENEVA RE RED SHIELD AMENDMENT.
- 2. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS OUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE VOTE AND SUGGEST, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES ISRAELI DECISION TO PRESS FOR VOTE MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED. ASIDE FROM PROSPECT OF SIZE OF DEFEAT, OUR SUBCONFIDENTIAL

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STANTIVE CONCERN IS THAT IF RECOGNITION OF EMBLEM IS DEFEATED AT CONFERENCE BY A VOTE, THIS COULD ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT CURRENT PRACTICE OF RECOGNITION OF EMBLEM (NOW DE FACTO BY ARAB STATES). IN SUM, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY DECISION IS ISRAEL'S TO MAKE, AS WE EVALUATE SITUATION, ISRAEL HAS NOTHING TO GAIN AND SOMETHING TO LOSE BY PRESSING ISSUE TO VOTE. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT OUR DELEGATION IS DISCUS-

SING SUBJECT ALONG SAME LINES WITH ISRAELI DEL IN GENEVA.

3. WE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN TO BE PRESSING GOI, BUT RATHER BRINGING TO THEIR ATTENTION OUR VERY NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT OF

VOTE PROSPECTS. WHILE WE CAN APPRECIATE SOME OF THE BROADER CONCERNS ADDRESSED IN REFTELS, WE THINK IT BEST IF YOU LIMIT YOUR APPROACH BASICALLY TO DISCRETE PROBLEM POSED IN THIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

4. YOU SHOULD REITERATE THAT IF ISRAEL DECIDES TO PRESS ISSUE TO A VOTE, GOI CAN BE ASSURED OF US SUPPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, VOTING, AMENDMENTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE104429
Document Source: Concept Programment Unique Concept Progr

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: NVELIOTES:CEK Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770161-1061

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770582/aaaacssp.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 719a0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 3437, 77 GENEVA 3241

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2607802 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANI- TARIAN LAW - RED SHIELD AMENDMENT

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SHUM, IS, ICRC

To: TEL AVIV Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/719a0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009